

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogawa (U.S. 2002/0089743). Ogawa teaches a Fresnel lens sheet 11 in which lens patterns having a Fresnel surface 15 becoming a light beam transmission surface and a rise surface becoming a light beam non-transmission surface are concentrically formed, wherein an optical axis of a Fresnel lens being the center of the lens patterns is disposed outside the Fresnel lens sheet, an angle of inclination of the Fresnel surface to the plane perpendicularly crossing the optical axis gradually increases from the optical axis toward the periphery. The applicant is directed to review figures 1-4 as well as pages 2-3 of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa (U.S. 2002/0089743) in view of Sekiguchi (US 20020171930). Ogawa teaches the salient features of the claimed invention except for the low refractive index material. Sekiguchi teaches that it was known to use the low refractive index material on a surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the features taught by Sekiguchi for the purpose of proper transmission and/or reflection.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi (JP 2003-177477) in view of Ogawa (JP2002207254) or Kuraray (JP2000-258845) and further in view of Dai Nippon (JP2003-66206). Sekiguchi teaches the salient features of the claimed invention except for the low refractive index material. Ogawa and Kuraray teach that it was known to use the low refractive index material on a surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the features taught by Ogawa and Kuraray for the purpose of proper transmission and/or reflection. Sekiguchi teaches the salient features of the claimed invention except for an anti static layer. Dai Nippon teaches that it was known to utilize an anti static layer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the features taught by Dai Nippon for the purpose of preventing dust buildup.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Mahoney whose telephone number is (571) 272-2122. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5PM, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Assouad can be reached on (571) 272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher E Mahoney/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2862